

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 100-117 are now pending. No claims are allowed. Claims 1 and 100-117 were rejected in an office action dated November 6, 2002. Claims 2-99 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in a preliminary amendment filed on April 9, 1999. Claims 1, 100, 103, 105, 111, and 113-117 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. No "new matter" has been added by the amendment. As all the amended claims have been amended to include limitations not shown or suggested by the cited art, the Examiner's objections should now be rendered moot.

The First 35 U.S.C § 103 Rejection

Claims 1 and 100 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Iribarren¹ in view of Picard et al.^{2 3} This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to specify the connection means is for providing a recipient connection signal to the apparatus in response to a browser connecting to an Internet network. The amendment to claim 1 makes it clear that the recipient connection signal is responsive to a browser connecting to the network, not merely that the recipient connection signal is provided at some time after the browser connects to the network. This differs from the cited art, which

¹ USP 5,737,395.

² USP 6,233,395.

³ Office Action dated November 6, 2002, ¶ 5.

teaches sending a home page in response to a "Get"⁴, an event that necessarily occurs after and not in response to establishing a connection to the Internet.

Since all elements of amended independent claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested by Iribarren, either alone or in combination with Picard et al., the U.S.C. § 103 rejection with respect to claim 1 is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Claim 100

Embodiments of the present invention as claimed in amended independent claim 100 recites two network interfaces for the same messaging apparatus. While Picard et al. discloses two physical interface types for the same messaging apparatus, it does not disclose or suggest two network interfaces for the same messaging apparatus. Claim 100 has been amended to make this distinction more clear.

Since all elements of amended independent claim 100 are not disclosed or suggested by Iribarren, either alone or in combination with Picard et al., the U.S.C. § 103 rejection with respect to claim 100 is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

⁴ Iribarren at col. 16 lines 45-46.

The Second 35 U.S.C § 103 Rejection

Claims 101-114 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Irribarren in view of Picard et al. and further in view of Chau et al.^{5 6} This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 101 and 102 depend from independent claim 100. Claim 104 depends from independent claim 103. Claims 106-110 depend from independent claim 105. Claim 112 depends from claim independent 111. As independent claims 100, 103, 105, 111, 113, and 114 have been amended to include limitations not shown or suggested by the cited art, the Examiner's objections should now be rendered moot.

Claims 101 and 102

Claims 101 and 102 depend from claim 100. As mentioned above, with this Amendment, claim 100 has been amended to specify two network interfaces for the same messaging apparatus. This is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, either alone or in combination. The base claim being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

Claim 105

With this Amendment, claim 105 has been amended to include limitations similar to amended claim 100. Claim 100 being allowable, claim 105 must also be allowable.

Claims 106-110

Claims 106-110 depend from claim 105. The base claim being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

⁵ USP 5,751,792.

⁶ Office Action dated November 6, 2002, ¶ 9.

Claim 113

With this Amendment, claim 113 has been amended to specify both a destination number from a subscriber, and a message intended for delivery to the destination telephone number, are received at a local messaging apparatus. Claim 113 has also been amended to specify the determination regarding whether a destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to a local telephone network is based at least in part on a routing program and a routing table maintained by the local messaging apparatus. This is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, either alone or in combination.

Since all elements of amended independent claim 113 are not disclosed or suggested by Iribarren, either alone or in combination with Picard et al. and Chau et al., the U.S.C. § 103 rejection with respect to claim 113 is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Claim 114

With this Amendment, claim 114 has been amended to include limitations similar to amended claim 1. Claim 1 being allowable, claim 114 must also be allowable.

Claims 115-117

With this Amendment, claims 115-117 have been amended to include limitations similar to amended claim 113. Claim 113 being allowable, claims 115-117 must also be allowable.

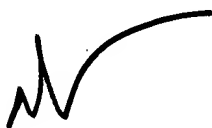
Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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